

CAPE FEAR NEWS

VOL. 1. NO. 29.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 16, 1915.

PRICE, \$4.00 PER YEAR

NEEDED REFORM IN BASEBALLING

From 136 to 140 Game Schedule Is Made as Suggestion

Frank G. Menke Thinks That to Reduce the Number of Games Would Be Better

New York, Dec. 15.—The baseball magnates would make a master strike if they shortened the playing season from 154 games to 136 games, opening the season about May 1st, and closing it September 20th.

One of the troubles with baseball is that the season begins too soon and ends at a time when interest in regular season baseball is dead, and embalmed. There is such a thing as too much baseballing—and that is what has been going on for many years.

The middle of April is too early to start a baseball season. The past has demonstrated that beyond the point of argument. The April weather is a way of a variety that rare to take a chance on pneumonia. The opening game always draws a crowd, but during the balance of the month the assemblage is small.

The season ought to end October 1st. Dragging it along until the 6th or 7th is a mistake. Fandom, by that time, has lost its interest in the regular diamond combat. Its attention has shifted to the world series and to football. The baseball crowds after October 1st in the big leagues rarely run far into the thousands—oftener they do not go above the hundreds—unless the pennant isn't cinched by that time.

The 136 and 140 game schedules have been suggested frequently in years gone by—but the magnates have pocket-pooched the plan. Such a "sneak" y'no, Oscar, would chop off 14 to 18 games, and, dear me, how could the magnates live throughout the winter without the receipts from these extra games? That's how the magnates figure it, but it is a fairly safe bet that they would draw down approximately as much for those 136 or 140 games as they do now in 154. Why? Well, simply because they suffer an average of five postponements in April and in the second place their April and October games rarely draw any crowds.

If the public didn't get quite so much baseball it might appreciate it more.

A Needed Reform

No better baseball reform ever has been suggested than that favored by Clarke Griffiths, which would bar the sale or trade of players during the playing season.

The practice of strengthening a pennant chasing team by robbing a mediocre club of its stars is a blot on the escutcheon of baseball. And it hurts the game as no other trick can hurt it. The 1915 season furnished an excellent example of this evil.

Joe Jackson was the only real star on the Cleveland roster. It was Jackson's presence in the line-up that drew the bulk of the small crowds that saw the Indians in action. In mid-season the White Sox were in the thick of the pennant fight. Comisky, needed an outfielder in the slugging type—and Jackson was the man. He knew the Cleveland club needed money and so he played in its weak spot—money—made a \$25,000 offer—and got Jackson.

What happened? Jackson strengthened the White Sox, but this going soured the Cleveland fans on the club, the home attendance dropped almost to nothing and on the road the Jacksonless Indians played almost to empty seats.

Hughie Jennings' Tigers also were in the pennant fight. It was figured that if they could get one or two good pitchers immediately they might win the flag. So Hughie scouted around and found the men he wanted on the payroll of the Browns. These men were pitchers James and Loudermilk. The Tigers made a huge offer to the Brownie owners for these two pitchers—and they got them because the Browns needed the money.

In mid-season the Red Sox needed a first-class second baseman. James Barry was the man they wanted. Connie Mack had saved Barry from the wreckage of the Athletics' 1914 ma-

chine, but the lure of Joe Lannin's bid was too strong—and Barry went to the Red Sox, bolstered up the infield and set the pace that shot the Red Sox under the wire ahead of the field.

Fight the War Monopoly Government Munition Plants

Washington, Dec. 15.—The fight for a government monopoly of the war paraphernalia was started today when Congressman Clyde Tavenner, of Illinois, made a speech of an hour. Mr. Tavenner charged that the war traffickers were the enemies of peace and that would be glad to see the European war continued indefinitely and would like to see the United States embroiled for the sake of increased profits.

The government should build its own ships, make its guns, ammunition and manufacture its own powder.

This will tend to make peace, for when the profits are taken away from the war trust there will be no incentive to bring about war to secure profits.

French Cut Off From English By Bulgars

Sofia (via Berlin and wireless), Dec. 15.—The Bulgarian war office announced today that the Bulgarian troops on the Vardar front have completely routed the allied forces opposing them and had cut the French troops off from their English supporters.

DOUGLAS HAIGH SUCCEEDS FRENCH

Haigh Commander of British Forces in France

French Has Been Appointed By the King to Be Field Mar- shal of the United Kingdom.

London, Dec. 15.—Sir John French has been succeeded by Sir Douglas Haigh commander of the British forces in France and Flanders.

The recall of Sir John French is not surprising news in London political circles.

If an open scandal in high military affairs does not stir London to its depths the British people may congratulate themselves. It has been known there has been unpleasantness between Lord Kitchener and Field Marshal Sir John French, for several months. This caused a realignment of the cabinet and Lord George was appointed head of the munitions department.

It is charged that the failure of the expeditionary army was caused by Lord Kitchener not furnishing the armies ammunition and fighting equipments, including proper arms.

Sir John French Appointed Field Marshal of the United Kingdom.

London, Dec. 15.—The official war bureau gave out the following statement:

Sir Douglas Haigh has been appointed field-marshal of France and Flanders to succeed Sir John French, resigned.

Sir John French was thanked by the King for the able manner in which he had conducted military affairs and was offered the field marshals place and commander in chief of the armies of the United Kingdom.

Sir John French relinquished the command in France and Flanders at his own request.

Another Beautiful Window.

Among the many beautiful windows in Fayetteville is that of Shuford, Rogers & Co., decorated by Mr. D. R. Kelly.

The window is decorated in many different colors and an assortment of handsome gifts for men, and at night especially it is one of the prettiest windows we have ever seen.

Cotton Receipts.

Seventy bales of cotton were received on the Fayetteville market Tuesday.

TO PURSUE ANGLO- FRENCH FORCES

Germany Has Served Notice on Greece to This Effect

Political Crisis in the Balkans is Now at Hand—The British Forces Reported Retreating.

London, Dec. 15.—The German allies have served notice upon Greece that they intend to "pursue the Anglo-French forces to the sea" unless the allies are disarmed upon Greek soil by King Constantine's troops, according to advices from Rome today.

Germany and Bulgaria disavow responsibility for any damage done to Greek property by the fighting upon Greek soil.

The political crisis in the Balkans, so far as Greece is concerned, is now at hand.

The allies have been forced over the border and the Bulgarians and Germans are at their heels.

Greece must show her hand. Pressure is being brought to bear heavily upon King Constantine's government. It is reported the allies are resorting to their most effective weapon—the sea blockade.

The British forces, under Sir Bryan Mahon, that were hurled backward from the Doiran line by the Bulgars, are reported to have retreated to Rasvoe, in Greece, which is a railway junction, and from which a spur railway line runs in a southwesterly direction joining the Saloniki Railroad about fifteen miles north of that city. There was another line of retreat possible, but Bulgarian troops were reported to be driving into Greece in great numbers to cut it off.

Bulgarians with heavy supplies of artillery were reported to be advancing toward Gumenie, twelve miles over the Greek line. At this point the railway line from Eastern Greece and Bulgaria joins the Belgrade-Saloniki line.

Saloniki dispatches to the Times state that 80,000 Austro-German and Bulgarian troops are being concentrated between Monastir and the Greek frontier.

The German general staff, which is directing the movements of the Bulgarian and Austro-Hungarian forces, as well as those of the Germans, is evidently determined to strike hard and fast at the allies before they can receive any considerable number of fresh reinforcements.

Official advices from Berlin and Sofia show that the heaviest fighting of the past few days has centered around Lake Doiran and the Vardar valley. The French have been holding the left end of the allied line, the British have been holding the right, a mixed force of French, British and Serbians have been maintaining the center.

By the loss of Gieregli and Doiran the allies have had to contract and retreat their line. This was not only necessary for strategic purposes, but the commissary by reason of the narrowness of the ground across which the allied retreat was conducted.

The new battle field is not different, so far as topography is concerned, from the old. The country is mountainous, sparsely populated and thinly wooded.

Bulgars Hold Every Greek Frontier Point

Saloniki, Dec. 15.—Bulgarian troops have occupied all posts formerly held by the Serbs on the Greco-Serbian frontier.

Children's Home Gets Two \$10,000 Gifts

Winston-Salem, N. C., Dec. 15.—Mrs. John W. Hanes yesterday announced a gift of \$10,000 to the Methodist Children's Home for the erection of an industrial building.

James A. Gray and children a few days ago gave a like amount for a girls' dormitory.

WEATHER REPORT

Washington, Dec. 15.—Weather for North Carolina: Thursday rain and warmer; Friday rain.

FILLS PLACES OF OLD SOLDIERS

Splendid Deeds of Hero- ism By British Troops

Some of the Brave Young Boys Who Have Filled Places of Older Ones Who Have Been Killed.

London, Dec. 15.—The official Gazette today records some of the recent splendid deeds of heroism by British troops. Prominent in the list are privates and non-commissioned officers who took the leadership when their superiors were all dead or wounded.

For instance, Private J. W. Campbell, of the Seaforth Highlanders, by his perfect example of coolness, bravery, and devotion to duty under very heavy fire at Hohenzellern Reoubt rallied his line when several privates were mixed up with his own regiment and later, while still under heavy fire, got on the parapet and called to the men to stand firm.

Quartermaster-Sergeant W. Bale, an assault near Ploere, when all the officers except one had been killed or wounded, rallied the men, reorganized the wounded ones, and led them to the attack again. When held up by uncut barbed wire he collected under heavy fire the few remaining un-wounded men and got them under cover, exposing himself with the utmost contempt for danger.

Acting Lance-Corporal R. Banker, in the rush of the assault in the salient of Sanatory Wood, got separated from his party, but at once assisted and superintended some of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, who were digging themselves in. On the completion of this work he went on his own initiative, and collecting a party of infantry, starting opening out a communication trench from the British lines to the captured position, and persisted until it became impossible to continue.

Sergeant H. J. Willer, of the 9th Battalion Rifle Brigade, during the action on Belleward Ridge, passed continually backwards and forwards, trying to establish communication with the battalion on his right, and when all his officers had been killed he rallied and organized the men of his own and other companies, and captured a position in the German second line trenches, which he held against all counter-attacks. During the day he was under incessant machine-gun and shell fire. He also took his prisoners and made them carry back the wounded of his party.

A stirring story is told of five men—Private E. Anderson, Private A. Chillingworth, Private H. Londestborough, Private H. Smith and Private A. Tonsdale, all of the 3rd Battalion, Aldersham Guards. The enemy, having made an attack with great determination along the trenches occupied by their battalion near Loos succeeded in taking the trench on the left, occupied by these men and came pouring into it. The situation was most critical. Realizing what had happened, Private Anderson and his comrades sprang forward and faced the enemy, drove them with bombs foot by foot down the trench, and eventually recaptured the whole section. This was done with the greatest gallantry in face of great opposition, and the men cleared out of the trench at least times their number.

Private W. Hurst, of the 7th Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, was attached to a machine-gun company near Festubert. A "Minerwerfer" bomb having landed in the trench, he pulled out the fuse, which was alight, and threw the bomb back over the parapet, thus undoubtedly saving the lives of the machine-gun team.

Temporary Corporal W. S. Tilling, of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, was wounded in the first assault on the German trenches near Hulloch, and lay out all day close to the German fire. When the final and successful assault was made, Tilling, although wounded, joined in it, and most of the machine gunners having been killed, he helped to take forward one of the abandoned guns and dug an emplacement for it in the German second line. He was ordered back to have his wounds dressed, but continued at duty and accompanied the

battalion in the advance to the Chalk Pit, not going back until the following day.

Private Roberts, of the 9th Battalion, Rifle Brigade, after all his comrades had been killed, held a barricade alone on Belleward Ridge for over two and a half hours against incessant attacks. When his own bombs were expended he defended the barricade by rifle fire and by throwing German bombs which he found, and bombs which had been thrown at him and had not exploded.

Near Vermoules, Private W. H. Nixon, of the 2nd Battalion, Cheshire Regiment, threw bombs during a whole company. He also saved an officer's life by picking up a German bomb which was on the point of exploding, and hurling it back among the Germans.

The President and Bride Coming South

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Mayflower is destined to play an important part in the honeymoon of the President and his bride-to-be, Mrs. Galt. The wedding takes place sometime Friday and the Mayflower will take the President to Baltimore and then pick them up at some southern port.

Mr. Tumulty issued what he called an ultimatum to the photographers today not to take any pictures of the President, his bride nor any of the attendants.

Mr. Galt has asked that none of his relatives allow any photographs taken during the wedding as a special favor.

INVESTIGATE THE COTTON SPECULATORS

Cotton States Wants Congress to Take the Matter Up

Wants to Know if New York Bears and Cotton Spinners Have Made Efforts to De- press Price of Cotton.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Agents of the Department of Justice are making an investigation of the alleged conspiracy of the spinners and cotton speculators to keep down the price of cotton. The cotton States have been told in their request for an investigation. The reports show that with a last crop of cotton more is being assumed than ever before and still here has been no rise in the price since the report was made public. This is unusual and contrary to all experiences in the cotton industry.

Congressman Bellin, of Alabama, and others have urged the investigation to get at the facts and see what efforts, if any, have been made by the New York bears and cotton speculators to depress the price, and if there has been a conspiracy for this purpose.

Evidence is expected to be produced in about ten days showing the effect of the spinners and manipulators. If there are conspiracies in restraint of trade, they may be punished under the Sherman law.

Ford's Ship at Kirk- Wall; British Pay Him No Attention

London, Dec. 15.—Henry Ford's peace party arrived at Kirkwall today. The Oscar II was due at Christian and Sweden, 400 miles east of here, last night, but it is presumed that the Oscar failed to arrive on time on account of storms.

The government views with unconcern the Ford arrival. It will not interfere nor encourage the project.

None of the delegates were allowed to land at Kirkwall.

German Ammunition Depot Blown Up

Paris, Dec. 15.—Intense cannonading at several points on the front is reported, and a German ammunition depot blown up.

AUSTRIANS BITTER ON AMERICAN NOTE

So Confidential Agents Informs the State Department

Many High Austrian Officials Incensed Over the Matter. Open Break With Uncle Sam to Be Avoided.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Austria's attitude toward the United States is one of bitter resentment. All of the information reaching the State Department from its confidential agents confirms this. The forced recall of Ambassador Bunsen and the refusal of the United States to withdraw charges of a near criminal nature against Austrian consular officials had incensed many high Austrian officials to such an extent that they now are reported to be advocating a curt answer to the Arsona note. If it rested with Austria alone, officials feel certain she would force the issue by declining to disavow the sinking of the Italian liner and by handing Ambassador Penfield his passports.

This action may yet be taken. If it is, it will be no surprise in official Washington. However, sources close to the Austrian and German embassies here were insisting today that Austria would find a way of meeting the demands of the United States. It is certain that if Vienna asks the advice of the Berlin government it will be told that under present conditions, especially because of the Balkan situation, an open break with the United States should be avoided.

San Francisco, Dec. 14.—Baron George Wilhelm von Brincken, attache of the local German consulate; C. C. Crowley and Mrs. Margaret Cornell, Crowley's secretary, who were indicted by the Federal grand jury, charged with sending letters through mails tending to incite arson, murder or assassination, surrendered yesterday to the Federal authorities pending the making of bonds for their release.

GOOD SHOWING.

Cumberland Savings and Trust Co. Adds to Surplus and Declares Semi- Annual Dividend.

At a meeting of the directors of Cumberland Savings and Trust Co. on Tuesday, December the 14th, of 1915, a dividend of \$100,000.00 was added to the surplus fund from the undivided profits, and a semi-annual dividend of four per cent was declared, payable on January 15th out of the earnings. Cumberland Savings and Trust Co. has now a surplus of eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000.00), besides over \$1,500 in undivided profits after paying out their semi-annual dividend of two thousand dollars.

This a fine showing for this prosperous and growing institution which not only adds to its surplus but paying eight per cent dividends. This a record hard to beat, and shows that it has first-class management.

Mr. Hunter Lectures.

Epworth League will hold a meeting in the Sunday School room at Hay Street church tonight at 8 o'clock. The meeting is social and devotional combined.

Mr. T. M. Hunter will give an humorous lecture on "Conservation, or Keeping Tab on the Ticks."

There will also be special music. An offering will be taken for Christmas charity.

Refreshments will be served. The public is cordially invited to attend.

German Submarine and Warship Sunk

Milan, Dec. 15.—Burcher reports the sinking of a German submarine in the Black Sea and the Turkish warship Goeben damaged.

Cotton 11 3-4 Cents.

Cotton sold on the local market yesterday for 11 3-4 cents.